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SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREPARATION OF PLANS
FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

PLANS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1. On request of the full Committee, the Bureau met with representatives of the Secretariat to prepare a working paper for the guidance of the Committee.

2. Following this meeting, the Bureau presents in succinct form a summary prepared by the Secretariat at the Bureau's request (see Annex), listing the available suggestions for this celebration.

These suggestions were drawn from the Annex to resolution 651 B (XXIV) of the Economic and Social Council, from papers submitted by non-governmental organizations (ST/SG/AC.4/L.1), and by the Office of Public Information of the Secretariat (ST/SG/AC.4/L.2), and from other sources.

3. For methodical purposes, duplication has been eliminated from the listing and the various suggestions have been grouped under the following headings:

A. ACTIVITIES
   1. at United Nations Headquarters
   2. on the national level
      (a) governmental
      (b) non-governmental
   3. recommended to specialized agencies

B. MATERIAL
   1. documents
      (a) Declaration
      (b) commentaries
      (c) other

2. visual material
   (a) stamps and posters
   (b) films and TV
   (c) other

4. The Bureau feels that this classification could serve as a guideline for the work of the Committee.

5. For this purpose, the Committee, after acquainting itself with the suggestions contained in the Summary, could receive additional suggestions from:
   (a) individual members of the Committee,
   (b) representatives of specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and other persons.

6. After these suggestions have been made, the Secretariat could be requested to incorporate them in the present summary, and the Committee could then proceed to select for approval those suggestions which it deems most appropriate for the purposes of the celebration.

7. In this selection, the Committee could be guided:
   (a) by paragraph 1 (a) and (b) of the Annex in ECOSOC resolution 651 B (XXIV) which stated the aims of the celebration of the Tenth Anniversary.
   (b) by considerations of practical feasibility.

8. The Committee could further consider:
   (a) the financial implications of adopted suggestions,
   (b) the means available to the Secretariat,
   (c) sources of additional financing.

9. The Committee could also consider the date of the celebration, namely whether it should coincide with the yearly celebration of Human Rights Day on 10 December or whether a different period of time should be set aside for this purpose.

ANNEX

Summary of suggestions for the Celebration of the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

A. ACTIVITIES

1. At Headquarters or originating from Headquarters

(a) A special concert in the General Assembly Hall should be organized on 10 December 1963.

(b) The anniversary year, which begins on 10 December 1963, should be declared "United Nations Year of Human Rights". The Secretary-General should be requested to open it with a special pronouncement, and the General Assembly should be requested to vote a special resolution.

(c) The United Nations Book Shop should be requested to prepare a special display of relevant United Nations publications during November/December 1963.

(d) The Secretary-General should be requested to promote in co-operation with UNESCO, national and international radio, television and film programmes.

(e) The Secretary-General should be requested to appoint a special committee of non-governmental organizations in consultative status to encourage and co-ordinate the observance of the anniversary by these organizations.

(f) United Nations Information Centres should be furnished with a summary of the forms of activities used for celebration of the tenth anniversary, and an outline of suggestions for observing the fifteenth anniversary.

(g) Information Centres should be encouraged to work through education ministries, universities and school systems in their areas in preparing observances of the fifteenth anniversary, establishing the teaching of human rights in school curricula, and in organizing seminars on the subject.

(h) Officers of the United Nations Information Centres, and other United Nations officers, should be encouraged to deliver lectures on the fifteenth anniversary in universities and in appropriate social organizations.

(i) Secretariat officials should be encouraged to prepare articles concerning the fifteenth anniversary, to be sent to Member States for possible publication in one of the major newspapers of the country on 10 December 1963 or on the eve of this date.

(j) Messages from the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General should be reproduced and disseminated by all OPI services in press releases, radio and film forms in as many languages as possible.

(k) The General Assembly should be requested to provide a plaque or bronze tablet to be placed in a conspicuous place and have inscribed on them the Universal Declaration. The dedication of this project would take place on the fifteenth anniversary.

2. On the national level

(a) Governmental

1. Governments should encourage national organizations and institutions to hold national and, whenever possible, regional conferences and other meetings on human rights.

2. Governments, universities and other institutions should offer special honours or awards in 1963 to persons who have distinguished themselves by their work or studies on human rights.

3. Governments should make arrangements to hold celebrations on 10 December 1963 in their capital and principal cities.

4. Parliaments of Member States should hold solemn sessions on 10 December 1963.

5. National organizations should be asked to organize special programmes of their own.

6. The support of special national and local organizations concerned with the protection or promotion of human rights should be enlisted. (i.e., Civil Rights Commissions - Federal, State, City, etc.).

7. It should be suggested to Member States that they:

(a) display the United Nations flag on government and private buildings and illuminate public buildings;

(b) request business organizations to display human rights posters, publications, etc.;

(c) hold special school assemblies on Human Rights Day addressed by members of teaching staff or guest speakers, and seminars sponsored by school debating societies.

8. Governments should participate in the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration by such means as official messages, directives to schools and where broadcasting systems are government controlled, by appropriate programming.

9. Governments should be urged to proclaim a general amnesty covering political and perhaps other prisoners, and to adopt measures to extend women's rights.

10. Governments should be encouraged on this occasion to make pledges for the implementation of the Declaration.

11. Member States should be requested to develop plans for further implementation of human rights, which might include seminars, study programmes and setting-up of National Advisory Committees where such do not already exist.

12. Governments, or appropriate organizations, should inform the Secretary-General in advance of their plans for the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration.

(b) Non-governmental

1. Such actions as the following should be suggested to non-governmental organizations:

(a) to write and distribute booklets for possible use in schools.

(b) to prepare booklets to serve as aids to national organizations in forming plans to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary (along the lines of what was done by the Church Peace Union for the tenth anniversary).

(c) to hold special masses or services in churches attended by top officials.

(d) to arrange for observances by trade unions.

(e) to organize community projects, i.e.:

(i) Panel discussions on human rights situation in local areas.

(ii) Children's parades.

(iii) Display of material by Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts at their various camps.

(iv) Awards to local individuals distinguishing themselves in some activity bearing on recognition and respect for human rights.

(f) to arrange for editorial and press coverage.

(g) to devote the annual non-governmental organizations conference in 1963 to the theme of the fifteenth anniversary (this was done in 1958).

(h) to hold round-table discussions of the Declaration with the participation of nationally known jurists.

(i) to arrange to honour national heroes who are renowned for their contribution to human rights.

(j) to request schools and universities to incorporate special studies of human rights in their curricula for 1963.

(k) to take vigorous action for the dissemination of literature relating to the Declaration. This might involve campaigns for making the Declaration better known. They should be asked to print such literature.

2. Participation by non-governmental organizations at international, national and local levels, through publicity, articles in periodicals and suitable observances at local, regional, national and international meetings, should be encouraged.

3. Non-governmental organizations should be requested to activate their members in a "Let's Be Human" drive to examine the problems of human rights and human relations which relate to their particular interests and recommend the best means of resolving them.

4. Principal libraries and museums in each country should organize book and other expositions in connexion with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; universities should arrange lectures by prominent professors and educators on the theme of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

5. Negotiations should be conducted with national and international teachers' organizations to assist them in preparing programmes and studies on human rights for use in schools.

6. As many societies and other local groups as possible should hold meetings and discussions on human rights during the year.

7. The leadership of all great religions should be encouraged to sign a common declaration of support of the Universal Declaration and to appeal to their adherents to promote its acceptance and implementation.

8. National Committees for the Celebration of the Fifteenth Anniversary should be organized and should form the nuclei of permanent organizations for

the perpetual programming of means and methods to implement the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

9. National and local festivals should be programmed.

3. Specialized agencies

(a) Specialized agencies should be invited to introduce into their public information activities in 1963 the theme of human rights, particularly when this is appropriate to the work of the agency.

(b) Heads of specialized agencies should be asked to organize observances at their respective headquarters.

(c) In every country where drama and music festivals are customarily held at various times throughout the year, UNESCO should be requested to invite the local powers-that-be to perform, project or display a selection of the most notable indigenous works dealing with some facet of human rights and upholding the dignity of man.

(d) Round-table discussions should be held at the headquarters of the various specialized agencies, with prominent figures in their respective fields participating.

(e) Special ceremonies should be held at headquarters of all specialized agencies to celebrate the anniversary.

(f) UNESCO should be requested to invite museums throughout the world to run human rights shows, drawing from their own collections the finest works appropriate to the Universal Declaration.

(g) Specialized agencies should be asked to:

1. Prepare notes for speakers.
2. Devote a special issue of their illustrated magazines to feature treatment of a right of particular relevance to their respective programmes.

(h) UNESCO should be invited to prepare a short and simple pamphlet which would summarize the results of scientific investigation on the question of race.

(i) UPU should be invited to request its member States to issue special stamps and cancellations commemorating Human Rights Day.

B. MATERIALS

1. Documents

(a) Universal Declaration of Human Rights

1. The Secretary-General should be requested to initiate, with the co-operation of Governments, non-governmental organizations, schools and local authorities, a new world-wide distribution of the text of the Declaration in as many languages as possible and presented in an attractive manner.

2. A pamphlet containing the complete text of the Declaration should be issued in as many languages as possible.

3. An effort should be made by the United Nations and its agencies to see that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is made known in those parts of the world where the text of this document is not known at all.

4. In each Member State having a population comprised of several different nationalities, the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be translated into all, or at least the principal languages of the country, and widely circulated.

5. Photocopies of the original of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be sent to Member States for reproduction in newspapers, on television, in museums, etc.

6. Governments should be urged to aid the information centres in translating and distributing the text of the Declaration.

7. An authoritative United Nations text explaining the origin of the Declaration and the steps that had been taken and are being taken to give effect to some or all of its provisions should be prepared. Such a text could be prepared by the Secretariat or an international competition could be held for its preparation.

8. A simplified version of the Declaration for children should be prepared and issued.

(b) Commentaries

1. Commentaries on all Conventions inspired by the Declaration and concluded under the auspices of the United Nations, UNESCO, ILO or other bodies should be updated, published and issued, i.e.:

(i) Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951)
(ii) Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954)
(iii) Convention on the Political Rights of Women (1952)
(iv) Convention on the Nationality of Married Women (1957)
(v) Supplementary Convention on Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery (1956)
(vi) Convention Concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupations (1958)
(vii) Convention Concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour (1957)
(viii) Convention Against Discrimination in Education (1960).

2. An up-to-date commentary on the Declaration giving its legislative history should be published and widely circulated.

(c) Other

1. As many publications on human rights as possible should be issued during 1963, i.e. books, pamphlets, periodicals and special articles. The co-operation of writers, publishers and non-governmental organizations should be welcomed in this respect.

2. Work of United Nations in the field of human rights should be given additional publicity in 1963. The work of the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission, and the work of the Commission on the Status of Women should also be reviewed in the publications issued.

3. There should be a publication, under United Nations sponsorship, of a collection of historic documents in the history of man's struggle for universal rights - Britain's Magna Carta, the Polish Neminem Captivabimus, the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, the American Declaration of Independence and Virginia Declaration of Rights, the European Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. Historic speeches could also be included.

4. A guide to "community check-ups" on human rights studied by the Commission should be prepared.

5. The handbook for teachers, "Teaching Human Rights", should be revised and the new edition issued in several languages before the end of the year.

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6. A revised edition for the fifteenth anniversary of the pamphlet "A Standard of Achievement" should be included in the publications programme.

7. "Notes for Speakers", prepared for United Nations Day 1963 should include emphasis on the theme of human rights and references to the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration.

8. United Nations Information Centres should be encouraged to seek governmental and non-governmental organization support for reproducing and disseminating, in the local languages of their areas, wallsheets and leaflets on human rights and the text of the Declaration.

9. United Nations Information Centres should be requested to encourage the writing of feature and background articles for special journals in their areas, and also to promote where possible the local production of film and TV programmes on human rights themes.

10. The Office of Public Information should be requested to supply, either through the Information Centres or directly, new film and radio material to national networks willing to undertake local documentary programmes on human rights.

11. The material to be used for the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration should include literature relating to the genesis and evolution of human rights.

12. Literature stressing the purposes, work and accomplishments of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities should be prepared and widely disseminated.

2. Visual materials

(a) Stamps and Posters

1. Governments should be requested to issue national human rights stamps, first-day covers, or special cancellations on 10 December 1963.

2. The use of United Nations human rights stamps, first-day covers and special cancellations honouring the fifteenth anniversary should be planned.

3. An anniversary poster should be designed and issued.

4. A competition could be held for the preparation of stamp designs, posters and other visual material.

(b) Films and TV

1. A documentary script should be prepared using a universal approach to the Declaration of Human Rights.

2. The fifteen-minute film "Overture", which has a human rights theme, should be reissued and made available to national film and television media. A one-minute film trailer on human rights should be prepared, in a number of languages, for film and television distribution.

3. Existing filmstrips on human rights should be reissued.

4. A vivid, timely motion picture dramatizing the Universal Declaration, which could be used on TV as well as in theatres and other community settings, should be made.

5. Member States should be requested to prepare (if not already available) and send to the United Nations a fifteen to twenty minute documentary film showing the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms (or a particular right and freedom) proclaimed in the Declaration by inhabitants of that country. The United Nations should be requested to arrange the showing of these films during the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary at Headquarters. In addition, the United Nations should send such films to other countries for showing, particularly to the newly-independent countries.

6. A special photo display set, illustrating a broad range of particular human rights, should be produced.

7. A short documentary on human rights should be produced and distributed.

8. There should be a production and distribution of a short film dramatizing certain aspects of human rights.

(c) Other

1. Member States should be encouraged to arrange photo exhibitions reflecting the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms proclaimed in the Declaration by the people of that country. The United Nations should request Member States to send copies of such photographs to an international photo exhibition arranged by the United Nations. This exhibition could then be sent to other countries.

2. Regional conferences with opinion-makers in all media of information (press, radio and television), in all key countries, should be convoked by local United Nations offices.

3. United Nations sales sections should be requested to prepare a special promotion, with order-form, for purchase of relevant United Nations publications - perhaps at special package prices.

4. Local and national art exhibitions should be programmed. Such exhibitions should stress, pictorially, human rights.

3. Radio

1. The output of United Nations Radio Services should throughout the year stress the theme of human rights, and should include special interviews with members of delegations and persons prominent in the human rights field. This material should be included in both regional and general programmes and should be stepped up during the year as the date of 10 December 1963 approaches. The monthly radio programme "Voices from the United Nations" should be used for this purpose with one complete programme devoted to the fifteenth anniversary.

2. The world-wide communications media should be used to carry conversations which would be pre-recorded. Such conversations would take place between the past Presidents of the General Assembly, the first Secretary-General and the incumbent Secretary-General. All Member States should be asked to encourage the owners and managers of the radio and television media to carry at least parts of the conversations/messages.

3. National radio organizations, throughout the world, should be urged to undertake to broadcast the full text of the Declaration on the anniversary of the Declaration.

4. The possibility of utilizing artificial communications satellites in the celebration should be explored. Messages by those who played an active part in the drafting of the Declaration should be broadcast.

5. Special radio programmes should be devoted to human rights stories.

4. Other

There should be musical and painting competitions where prizes are awarded for the best works on themes relating to human rights.